

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO USINT BAGHBAD
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AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 3324

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR, MPOL, SU, IR, TC, KU, QA, SA
SUBJECT : NIMEIRI INTERVIEW ON GULF STATES

REF: KHARTOUM 3610

1. SUMMARY: NIMEIRI'S FREE-WHEELING INTERVIEW WITH
EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE BELITTLING UAE (REFTEL)
INITIALLY IRRITATED EMIRATE GOVERNMENT BUT RELATIONS ARE
EXPECTED TO MOVE BACK TO PREVIOUS GOOD LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL DESCRIBES RIPPLES CAUSED BY NIMEIRI INTERVIEW IN
EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE "OCTOBER" PUBLISHED IN ITS NOVEMBER 21,
1976 ISSUE.
UNTIL OVERTAKEN BY REFTTEL, WE HAD PLANNED AIRGRAM ON
SUBJECT. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT
SECTION OF NIMEIRI IN INTERVIEW (NOT PUBLISHED IN UAE)
WITH ANIS MANSUR:

QUOTE: (MANSUR): SOME CONCERN IS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE
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OF THE GULF..THE GULF EMIRATES. THEY WANT TO GET BIG

AT ONE TIME, COME WHAT MAY AND AT WHATEVER PRICE. DO YOU NOT THINK THAT THE PRICE MAY BE TOO EXPENSIVE? (NIMEIRI): I PITY THE GULF STATES FOR THEIR LACK OF INTEGRATION OR CONTINUING LACK OF INTEGRATION. THESE STATES WANT TO MAINTAIN ARMIES WHICH IS STRANGE AND EXHAUSTING. THIS ENCOURAGES THE EXISTENCE OF INEQUALITIES AND DIFFERENCES, AND GIVES RISE AS WELL TO MORE HATRED AND GRUDGES. WE REGRETFULLY FIND OURSELVES OBLIGED TO HELP IN THEIR ADMINISTRATION, JUDICIARY, TEACHING, SECURITY AND ARMY. I REMEMBER WHEN I MET SOME MEN OF THE POLICE FORCE I ASKED: WHERE ARE YOU (ASSIGNED)? AND HE WOULD SAY: "I WORK IN MR. (.....)'S BUILDING". I ASKED ANOTHER: "AND YOU?" WELL, HE WORKS WITH SHAIKH ".....". THAT IS TO SAY THEY WORK FOR INDIVIDUALS, A MATTER WHICH IS PECULIAR. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY SHOULD PROCURE ARMS AND RAISE ARMIES. DO THEY THINK THAT BY DOING SO THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFRONT IRAN? IRAN COULD SEIZE THE GULF IN ONE MINUTE. BUT THE CATASTROPHE IN WHICH THE GULF STATES WILL END UP IS CALLED: THE GAME OF MONEY, THEY MONEY WHICH WILL ALL GO IN PURCHASING WEAPONS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO NECESSITY. THINGS IN THE EMIRATES ARE STRANGE; THE PEOPLE OF THE EMIRATES ARE FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN AND IRAN; AND THE PALESTINIANS IN THESE EMIRATES ARE LEFTISTS WHO ARE DISCONTENTED WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE EMIRATES. UNQUOTE.

3. UAE IMMEDIATE REACTION TO NIMEIRI CANDOR WAS AN ON THE SPOT FREEZE OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS IN UAE EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM. ACCORDING TO SUDANESE EMBASSY HERE, UAE IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT REQUESTING 400 MAN SUDANESE MILITARY TRAINING COMPLEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, HIGHLY PLACED SUDANESE OFFICIALS HERE ON SECONDMENT ARE NERVOUS ABOUT RUMORS ABOUT POSSIBLE DEMAND FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

4. SIGNS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT TEMPEST HAS PASSED. SUDANESE SENT LINGUISTICALLY ENAMELED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON RE-ELECTION OF UAE PRESENT ZAYID WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN MEDIA. SUDANESE OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSIDUOUS IN SPREADING INTERPRETATION THAT WILY EGYPTIANS LED SUSCEPTIBLE NIMEIRI INTO CRITICISM TO DRIVE WEDGE INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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UAE/SUDANESE RELATIONS. POINT OF THIS MANEUVER WOULD HAVE BEEN TO TURN UAE MORE TOWARDS EGYPTIAN EXPERTISE AND PERSONNEL WITH CONSEQUENT RISE IN EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE HERE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NIMEIRI'S VERBAL STYPEL IS DISCOUNTED LOCALLY, EMIRATES ARE SENSITIVE TO SECURITY AND POPULATION ISSUES. HOWEVER, TEMPORARY IRRIATION

UNLIKELY TO ENDURE OR TO DEEPLY AFFECT UAE/SUDANESE
RELATIONS SINCE EMIRATES WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL
ARAB BRETHREN AND FIND SUDANESE CONNECTION USEFUL.
EVEN THOUGH WHAT NIMEIRI HAS SAID CONTAINS GRAINS OF
TRUTH AND UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID MAY WELL ADMIT
TO THESE IN PRIVATE, PUBLIC GRATUITOUS REMARKS BY
NIMEIRI ARE UNHELPFUL TO ZAYID'S CONTAINUED EFFORTS
TO PRESS RULERS OF OTHER EMIRATES TO PLACE NATIONAL
OBJECTIVES ABOVE THEIR OWN.
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